

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application as amended. In response to the Office Action mailed 06/03/08, Applicant is filing this amendment. Claims 1-4 and 6-17 are pending.

In the Office Action mailed 06/03/08, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-11, 13 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chou et al. (U.S. Patent 5,905,897; “Chou”) in view of Moyer et al. (U.S. Patent 6,449,675; “Moyer”); claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chou in view of Moyer and in combination with what is well known as evidenced by Feldbaumer et al. (U.S. Patent 5,586,046; “Feldbaumer”) and Fletcher et al. (U.S. Patent 5,155,387; “Fletcher”); and claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chou in view of Moyer and Park (U.S. Patent 5,903,779).

In reply, applicant has amended the pending claims to recite a combination of interrupts and virtual channels that are to be associated with one of a plurality of processors (or processing cores). Applicant submits that although Chou may disclose interrupt selection and routing to a plurality of processors, Chou fails to disclose interrupt processing associated with a virtual channel. As noted in Figures 5-7 of Chou and the accompanying text in Chou, the interrupt selection is based on criteria, such as destination, priority and vectoring. However, Chou fails to disclose the masking of interrupts based on associating an interrupt with a virtual channel. Thus, Applicant submits Chou, as well as the other cited art, fail to disclose interrupt masking with virtual channels and mapping the merged interrupt indications in a register. Subsequently, this merged interrupt indication is associated with a selected processor for each virtual channel.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the amended claims overcome the Examiner’s rejections based on Chou and Moyer together, or Chou and Moyer in combination with Feldbaumer, Fletcher and/or Park.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections and allow pending claims 1-4 and 6-17, as amended.

If there are any fee shortages related to this response, please charge such fee shortages to Deposit Account No. 50-2126.

Respectfully submitted,

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